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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/46/704 and Corr.1 and 2)]

46/93. International Literacy Year

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 42/104 of 7 December 1987, by which it proclaimed 1990 as International Literacy Year,

Recalling also its resolution 45/126 of 14 December 1990,

Recalling further that in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1/ and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 2/ the inalienable right of every individual to education is recognized,

Bearing in mind the Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s, 3/ adopted by the World Summit for Children, held in New York on 29 and 30 September 1990,

Mindful of the fact that eradication of illiteracy is one of the paramount objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, 4/

1/ Resolution 217 A (III).

2/ See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

3/ A/45/625, annex.

4/ See resolution 45/199, annex.

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Emphasizing that widespread illiteracy, especially in many developing countries, seriously hinders the process of economic and social development and the cultural and spiritual advancement of society,

Convinced that literacy, especially functional literacy and adequate education, represents an indispensable element for the development and harnessing of science, technology and human resources for economic and social progress,

Confident that International Literacy Year and the World Conference on Education for All held at Jomtien, Thailand, from 5-9 March 1990, resulted in increased awareness and support for literacy efforts and became a turning point in the struggle for a literate world,

Appreciating the exemplary spirit of partnership and cooperation among the sponsors of the Jomtien Conference and underlining the importance of follow-up activities that are necessary on the international, regional and national levels in order to realize the objectives set forth in the World Declaration on Education for All, 5/

Noting that the heads of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank and other sponsors of the Jomtien Conference, in the Statement of Solidarity to Achieve Education for All, called upon all countries and the international community to join hands and to do all within their power and resources to achieve the full letter and spirit of the goal of ensuring basic education for all by the year 2000,

1. Notes with appreciation the commendable work done in implementing the programme for International Literacy Year by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, other specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system;

2. Commends those Governments which have launched national literacy programmes and attained notable progress in meeting the objectives of the Year;

3. Notes with satisfaction the firm commitment and active involvement of many non-governmental organizations, mass media and the private sector in support of the Year;

4. Invites Member States, specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to further intensify their efforts to increase literacy and achieve education for all;

5. Appeals anew to Governments, economic and financial organizations and institutions, both national and international, to lend financial and material support to the efforts to promote literacy;

5/ Final report of the World Conference on Education for All: Meeting Basic Learning Needs, Jomtien, Thailand, 5-9 March 1990, Inter-Agency Commission (UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, World Bank) for the World Conference on Education for All, New York, 1990, appendix 1.

6. Calls upon the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to continue assuming the role of lead organization in ensuring the follow-up to International Literacy Year and the World Conference on Education for All;

7. Requests the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to submit to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session, in 1995, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the progress made and problems encountered in the quest to achieve a literate world;

8. Decides to undertake, at its fiftieth session, a mid-decade review of progress made and problems encountered in the struggle against illiteracy, under the item entitled "Social Development".

74th plenary meeting
16 December 1991